United Nations A/53/187

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 July 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Item 74 (d) of the provisional agenda*

Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session: United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General hereby transmits to the General Assembly the report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the Activities of the Institute for the period from July 1997 to June 1998 (see annex I) and the report of the Board of Trustees of the Institute containing its proposed programme of work for 1998-1999 (see annex II).

* A/53/150.

98-21750 (E) 270898

Annex I

Report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the Activities of the Institute for the period from July 1997 to June 1998

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–2	3
II.	Management and staffing	3–4	3
III.	Subvention from the United Nations regular budget	5–6	3
IV.	Current and planned activities	7–33	3
	A. Collective security	9–14	3
	1. Disarmament, development and conflict prevention	9–10	3
	2. Blue Helmets, disarmament and humanitarian missions	11	4
	3. Modern technologies in the service of peace	12	4
	4. Light weapons/small arms	13–15	4
	B. Regional security	16–22	4
	1. The Middle East	17–19	5
	2. Africa	20	5
	3. Asia	21	5
	4. Cross-regional perspectives	22	5
	C. Non-proliferation studies	23–33	5
	1. Implementation and verification	23	5
	2. Disarmament and future security	24–26	6
	3. Nuclear-weapon-free zones	27	6
	4. Lessons from the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq	28	6
	5. Transparency and restraint in arms transfers	29	6
	6. The costs of disarmament and arms reductions	30–31	6
	7. Anti-personnel mines	32–33	7
V.	Fourth special session on disarmament	34–35	7
VI.	Cooperation with and among research institutes	36–38	7
VII.	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research Fellowship Programme	39–40	8
VIII.	Publications	41–43	8
Appendix.	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research publications for the period from July 1997 to June 1998		9

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) is an autonomous research institute within the framework of the United Nations. The Institute was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/83 M of 11 December 1979 for the purpose of undertaking independent research on issues of disarmament and international security.

2. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly in pursuance of paragraph 6 of its resolution 39/148 H of 17 December 1984, and paragraph 6 of its resolution 45/62 G of 4 December 1990, in which the Director was invited to report annually to the Assembly on the activities carried out by the Institute. The present report is for the period from July 1997 to June 1998.[a] It thus covers activities carried out until 10 October 1997 under the Deputy Director, Mr. Christophe Carle, and thereafter under the new Director, Mrs. Patricia Lewis.

II. Management and staffing

3. The work of UNIDIR is carried out with a dedicated but small staff: a director, a deputy director, a head of political affairs, an administrative assistant, a specialized secretary for publications, researchers and editors. Currently the staff is small, but growing, the majority of staff being employed on short-term contracts. A stronger core staff is needed to reinforce the Institute's internal research as well as its capacity to sustain work carried out elsewhere. All attempts are being made to increase UNIDIR's core and project income, so that staff can be put on longer-term contracts and be more adequately remunerated.

4. The Institute holds weekly staff meetings, monthly research meetings and, since November 1997, has carried out two strategic planning meetings. Equality of opportunity, skills training and staff appraisal are high on the management agenda.

III. Subvention from the United Nations regular budget

5. While efforts are continuing to increase the portion of administrative costs in tied contributions, non-earmarked money remains scarce. A subvention is therefore also necessary for the coming biennium. Such a subvention, which is used to cover the costs of the regular staff, including the Director, is important, not only economically, but also to ensure the independence of the Institute. It is important to note that for several years the subvention has not been adjusted for inflation while the salaries have been adjusted. In 1996 and 1997, the subvention was temporarily reduced from $220,000 to $213,000. The latter sum has also been repeated for the biennium 1998-1999. It is UNIDIR's hope that it will be possible to increase the subvention in line with inflation so that its value does not continue to decrease.

6. In view of the importance of the United Nations subvention, the matter should be kept under review as part of the effort to facilitate growth in voluntary income and attempts to ensure that it returns to its previous level and is adjusted for inflation should be undertaken.

IV. Current and planned activities

7. The Institute's research programme, as approved and extended by previous meetings of the Board, comprises four main headings:

(a) Collective security in the framework of the United Nations;

(b) Regional security;

(c) Non-proliferation;

(d) Fourth special session on disarmament of the General Assembly.

8. This report classifies the projects under these headings and gives information as to their current status: in development, in progress or reaching conclusion.

A. Collective security

1. Disarmament, development and conflict prevention

9. Work on disarmament, development and conflict prevention continues to focus, in the first instance, on the case of West Africa. To address the complex interrelationship between security, the flow of arms and socio-economic problems, phase one of the project has proceeded from a "security-first" perspective: an inquiry into ways of improving the security situation in West African countries as a prerequisite for implementing development projects. The experience of Mali in preventing full-scale conflict and in connecting the need for peacemaking and economic development has provided fertile ground for a

joint UNIDIR-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project. The research project has thus far produced a book in English and an updated edition in French is in progress. The English edition of the book was launched in March 1998. One of the focal points for the research has been the idea, under discussion since the regional conference held at Bamako from 25 to 29 November 1996, of a moratorium on the import, export and manufacture of light weapons in West Africa. Regional discussion of the Mali experience is the focus for the next phase of this aspect of UNIDIR's work (under development with funds being requested).

10. In addition, an analysis of the experience in Mali entitled "Arms management and conflict transformation in Mali" is being carried out by the Conflict Transformation Working Group of the University of Helsinki. This project is in progress and should reach conclusion in the autumn of 1998.

2. Blue Helmets, disarmament and humanitarian missions

11. There are a number of intricate problems with the interface between civil and military Blue Helmets contingents and humanitarian agencies. One such study is currently being undertaken by UNIDIR in collaboration with the Institute for Security Studies (Pretoria). The study examines current efforts to develop African capacities to undertake peacekeeping and peace enforcement operations. Particular attention is being paid to the Security Council's growing tendency to sub-contract the promotion of peace and security to others and to the "capacity-building" efforts of both Western and African countries, as well as the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. This project will reach its conclusion in the autumn of 1998.

3. Modern technologies in the service of peace

12. Modern technologies can be used to enhance preventive diplomacy, strengthen confidence-building arrangements and make peace operations more effective. The Institute is discussing possibilities of this nature with other organizations that possess special technological expertise, in an effort to bridge the gap between modern technologies and the needs of confidence-building, preventive diplomacy, and peace operations. This project is in the early stages of development.

4. Light weapons/small arms

13. A common denominator in the collective security issues discussed above is the dissemination of light weapons. The United Nations is at the forefront of stronger efforts to control light weapons, the weapons which are used to inflict most of the casualties in contemporary conflicts. Yet, much remains to be done in this field. The Institute has been studying the issue of light weapons/small arms for some time. Future approaches by UNIDIR will take into account the conclusions and the needs identified by the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms in its report to the General Assembly of 1997 (A/52/298).

14. UNIDIR is currently undertaking a study on issues related to small arms ammunition, in coordination with the Department for Disarmament Affairs in New York. The Deputy Director of UNIDIR, Mr. Christophe Carle, is a member of the Study Group on Ammunition and Explosives, as is Colonel Ilkka Tiihonen of Finland, who will be joining UNIDIR in the autumn of 1998. This study is an input to the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms. Its aim is to provide solid and comprehensive grounds on which to assess whether and how the control of ammunition can contribute to efforts to stop the dissemination and use of small arms. Rigorous technical information and analysis of ammunition production and trade, of marking and other means of tracking ammunition is needed in order to enable an assessment of practical policy options. The issue of ammunition will be the guiding thread for UNIDIR research on small arms, which may include other activities such as regional seminars, notably on regional dimensions of the problem.

15. UNIDIR is currently developing projects in Latin America, notably in cooperation with Brazil and with Argentina, on the issue of illegal trafficking of small arms.

B. Regional security

16. In recent years, regional security studies at UNIDIR have largely focused on the Middle East. Since 1996, other studies have been undertaken in West Africa and Latin America, and, to a lesser extent thus far, in Asia. A diversification of regional security studies will be pursued in 1998, with special emphasis on Asia.

1. The Middle East

17. The Institute and the Cooperative Monitoring Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, are co-hosting a workshop on the potential uses of commercial satellite imagery for promoting peace and development in the Middle East. The meeting will discuss three main areas where remote sensing technology might be employed: (a) arms control, (b) environmental and natural resources and (c) economic development.

18. The meeting will be held at Geneva in the late summer of 1998 and will bring together 30 to 35 experts in remote sensing technology and security and development in the Middle East. A report summarizing the trends of the discussions and giving an analysis of the potentials of remote sensing technology for building peace and economic development in the Middle East will be published by UNIDIR and the Cooperative Monitoring Center. This project is in progress.

19. The Institute has also been developing a satellite atlas of the Middle East. The idea behind the atlas is to provide a fresh perspective on the peace process by focusing on areas of current or potential cooperation between Middle Eastern neighbours. The proposed project aims to raise interest and awareness among the general public about the ongoing difficulties in the region, but would also serve as a useful reference tool for the diplomatic and academic communities. Funding is currently being sought for the project, which is in its last stages of development.

2. Africa

20. The Institute will continue to address issues of peace-building, disarmament and small arms control in West Africa. The Institute will seek to work with local researchers, as a contribution to the training of a new generation of African experts on security and disarmament matters. These activities, both in Geneva and in West Africa, should be carried out in parallel with the efforts to implement a moratorium on small arms trade and manufacture in the subregion. Work undertaken on West Africa since 1996 (see paras. 9 and 10 above) may lend itself to broadening to other subregions or to comparative research on the basis of work undertaken by other research institutions in east, central or southern Africa. This project is under development: UNIDIR has submitted funding proposals to a number of sources.

3. Asia

21. The evolution of security issues in the Asia-Pacific region will be crucial not just for the States of the region themselves, but also for the future of international security from a global perspective. Opportunities for cooperation with the United Nations Regional Centre in Nepal will be investigated, but work on this region will require strengthening the core staff in Geneva and recruiting additional visiting fellows to undertake research at UNIDIR. The Institute is developing a project to recruit visiting research fellows from the region (see below under section VII) in order that they may be able to work collectively on Asian security concerns.

4. Cross-regional perspectives

22. The UNIDIR seminar on "Illegal Traffic of Small Arms and Sensitive Technologies", held from 23 to 25 April 1997 at Buenos Aires, underlined the relationship between narcotraffic and terrorism and the threat they pose to the stability of States through access to small arms or materials related to weapons of mass destruction. The Institute is currently advancing this work through a project addressing the problem of small arms and their effect on societies in Latin America. This research is being undertaken by a visiting expert on the UNIDIR research fellowship programme. Further work addressing this topic in other regions and between regions is in development.

C. Non-proliferation studies

1. Implementation and verification

23. For the foreseeable future, the full implementation of existing disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and agreements will be a crucial and demanding task. Verified implementation is and will remain an essential means of building trust and therefore security. UNIDIR is developing a project for a series of seminars with international treaty-implementing organizations such as the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in order to highlight common interests and problems, encourage ratification and implementation and promote dialogue between practitioners. In addition, for one year, from June 1998 to June 1999, UNIDIR is hosting a visiting fellow to work on the implementation of the

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (Biological Weapons Convention). This work, which is in progress, will lead to a conference and two publications.

2. Disarmament and future security

24. The immediate prospects for fruitful multilateral negotiations on disarmament and non-proliferation appear uncertain. However, UNIDIR is looking beyond the short-term agenda into future options for arms reduction and disarmament, notably in the nuclear field. In particular, attention will be devoted to forward-looking and practical analyses of ways of ensuring that progressively lower levels of armaments (notably nuclear) do result in enhanced security. A series of UNIDIR informal discussions meetings in 1998 are focused on the problems within the Conference on Disarmament.

25. The Institute is planning to undertake two short studies on the possible limitations on the production of fissile materials. The first study will report on the amounts and possession of the stocks of fissile material now present in the world. The second study will analyse the disarmament and non-proliferation aspects of the proposals for banning the production of fissile materials for weapons purposes. This project is in development.

26. As part of UNIDIR's mandate to assist in disarmament negotiations and provide information to the international community, the Institute is producing a handbook on arms control and disarmament terms. The handbook will provide a useful addition to current literature and feed into multilateral negotiations and peace processes throughout the world. The book is to be published in English and in Arabic, in order to further assist the peace process in the Middle East. This project is in progress and due for completion in September 1998.

3. Nuclear-weapon-free zones

27. The Institute will continue to explore the future of nuclear-weapon-free zones. In particular UNIDIR is developing a project on the proposed nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

4. Lessons from the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq

28. Following the most recent difficulties that the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM) has had to resolve, UNIDIR intends to prepare an account and assessment of the achievements of UNSCOM. The focus would be on lessons learned in terms of inspections and verification and on a discussion of their applicability to different situations. Particular attention would be paid to the role of the threat of the use of force and the implications of those findings to the role of the United Nations in disarmament. This project will be developed over the longer term.

5. Transparency and restraint in arms transfers

29. The debates in recent meetings organized by UNIDIR in various regions (Africa, Asia and Latin America) have stressed the issue of transparency in arms transfers. As part of this approach, UNIDIR is now carrying out a study on the transfer of dual-use space technologies. This is work in progress and should be completed by early 1999.

6. The costs of disarmament and arms reductions

30. Since the 1987 Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Nuclear Missiles, the cost of implementing arms reduction and disarmament agreements has been a major issue for a number of countries. The Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, signed in 1990, gave the European States a taste of the financial and resource difficulties already being faced by the Russian Federation and the United States of America. Since then the costs of implementation, resulting from both arms destruction and treaty verification obligations, have been of increasing concern in multilateral and bilateral negotiations. The costs incurred in setting up the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons played a significant part in the debate on the implementation provisions of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their Destruction (the Ottawa Convention). Such concerns are now having an additional effect in the

negotiations over the compliance measures for the Biological Weapons Convention.

31. The Institute aims to take key countries as examples and carefully research what their commitments to disarmament treaties mean to them in terms of financial and resource costs. In addition, we will try to ascertain what each country perceives are the benefits brought to them through their participation in the agreements and whether there is consensus that there is a net gain to the State in question. It is likely that there will be quite different attitudes among the States. The aim of the project is to achieve a better understanding of the costs and benefits of disarmament agreements, with a view to assisting policy makers in deciding how money is spent on such commitments, which budget lines are best structured to handle such spending and how States could approach this aspect of negotiations in the future. This project is in development.

7. Anti-personnel mines

32. The Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines contains extensive provision for information gathering, fact-finding, transparency measures and compliance of procedures. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were a driving force behind the agreement. These energetic organs of civil society will be part of the implementation and compliance process, but the mechanisms for including NGOs need to be carefully considered. The Institute has submitted funding proposals to carry out a project to consider such issues as the type of information that can be collected by NGOs and journalists, how to ascertain the quality of that information and the need to examine the potential role of experts from NGOs in fact-finding missions. The involvement of civil society will be critical in the successful implementation of the Convention and could be a turning point in the way all future agreements are hence negotiated. This project is in development for the longer term.

33. Following UNIDIR's successful collaboration with the Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy, on the special issue of the *NewsLetter* on landmines, we are now discussing and developing further joint projects, which may include the production of a landmine atlas. UNIDIR is attending the meetings of the Committee of Advisers: Detection of Mines based on Operational Standard (CADMOS), which take place in Ispra.

V. Fourth special session on disarmament

34. A fourth special session on disarmament is expected to provide a unique opportunity to review and reflect upon disarmament efforts. This is particularly the case since the present international setting has undergone considerable change since the third special session was held in 1988. The significance and success of another special session depend very much on the intensity and scope of the preparatory debate and in setting the agenda. The Institute will contribute to its preparation in different ways. We shall hold meetings and electronic conferences on opening up the agenda so that the special session does not merely rehearse old arguments and result in some form of stalemate. Rather, the fourth special session could be a focus for new ideas and approaches to disarmament. UNIDIR will place a great deal of emphasis on helping to formulate the questions that should be asked at the special session, channelling all our work on disarmament and security issues into our thinking for this event.

35. To this end, the Institute has set up an electronic conference site, which can be accessed through the UNIDIR web site, designed specifically to draw opinion and debate from a wide section of the international community on the current key questions in disarmament and security. This phase of the project, which is in progress, will reach conclusion towards the end of 1998.

VI. Cooperation with and among research institutes

36. Four recurrent activities come under this heading:

(a) Maintenance and development of UNIDIR's computerized information and documentation system, DATARIS, on who is doing what in the field of security and disarmament research. The database, with over 1,200 references, is currently being overhauled and is scheduled to be on line by September 1998;

(b) Publication of the quarterly UNIDIR *NewsLetter*;

(c) Convening of regional conferences, held with the dual purpose of examining region-specific issues of security, arms control and disarmament and of fostering cooperation with and among research institutes in the areas concerned;

(d) Convening of conferences and other smaller group activities in support of initiatives aimed at improving

communication and access to data. New technologies can assist in fostering closer research networks and cooperation.

37. The Institute provides an electronic forum for research institutes, national and international organizations working in the area of disarmament and international security to become more familiar with one another. Electronic conferences can alleviate the financial and time expenditures normally associated with international conferences. The electronic conference held jointly with the Henry L. Stimson Center (Washington, D.C.) in January is an example of such an activity.

38. In cooperation with the Quaker United Nations Office and the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies, UNIDIR has set up an occasional venue for information and informal discussion among the diplomatic and research communities in Geneva: the Geneva Forum. Invited experts speak on a topical subject, followed by questions and open discussion. The project has now received funding to invite a number of speakers to Geneva to address controlling the spread of small arms.

VII. United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research Fellowship Programme

39. The Institute has a Fellowship Programme for scholars from developing countries. Fellowships last from 3 to 12 months and the projects are integrated into ongoing research projects. They represent a significant strengthening of the research base in Geneva. The programme also ensures the participation of researchers on "an equitable political and geographical basis" (art. II, para. 3, of the UNIDIR statute).

40. UNIDIR intends to extend its visiting fellowship programme so that, rather than two or three scholars per year each for three-month periods, as has been the case recently, there would be six or more researchers for periods of six months. The focus of their research would be regional security and the Institute hopes to group together researchers from a particular region during one period. The project is in development. A fund-raising proposal has been submitted to help fund and manage the Fellowship Programme.

VIII. Publications

41. Currently UNIDIR publishes a quarterly *NewsLetter*, research reports and research papers. UNIDIR will continue to publish the same range of material, but is making some changes to the way in which the publications are presented and distributed. The *NewsLetter*, which has evolved into a serious journal, is to be renamed *Disarmament Forum*. This name change will take place at the end of 1998 for issue 40, which will also mark the tenth anniversary of the *NewsLetter*. The *NewsLetter* is being extensively distributed to bring UNIDIR's work to a wider audience.

42. Along with each research report and paper, short summary papers are now being produced to inform those who do not have the time to read all of UNIDIR's longer publications. Called *UNIDIR Briefs*, each contains a summary of the main findings of the research publication and, where appropriate, policy recommendations. UNIDIR hopes eventually to be able to produce the *UNIDIR Briefs* in all six official languages of the United Nations. In addition to being redesigned, the book-length publications will be more selectively distributed and, where possible, sold. *UNIDIR Briefs*, however, which contain the essential information from these publications, will be widely distributed throughout the world. all of UNIDIR's publications are currently being redesigned in order to make them more accessible to a wider readership.

43. A list of UNIDIR publications for the period from July 1997 to July 1998 is contained in the appendix to the present report.

Notes

[a] For the previous reports on the activities of the Institute, see A/38/475, A/39/553, A/40/725, A/41/676, A/42/607, A/43/686, A/44/421, A/45/392, A/46/334, A/47/345, A/48/270, A/49/329, A/50/416, A/51/364 and A/52/272.

Appendix

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research publications for the period from July 1997 to June 1998

Research Reports/Rapports de recherche

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in the 21st Century, by Péricles Gasparini Alves and Daiana Cipollone (eds), 1997, 169 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.97.0.29. *Also available in Spanish: *Las Zonas Libres de Armas Nucleares en el Siglo XXI*, editado por Péricles Gasparini Alves y Daiana Cipollone, 1997, 180 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.S.97.0.29.

Operación CEIBO: Ejercicio Combinado de Operaciones de Mantenimiento de la Paz entre Uruguay y Argentina, editado por Cnel. Carlos Pagola y Cnel. Jorge Tereso, 1997, 63 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.S.97.0.30.

Increasing Access to Information Technology for International Security: Forging Cooperation Among Research Institutes, by Péricles Gasparini Alves (ed.), 242 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.97.0.23.

A Peace of Timbuktu – Democratic Governance, Development and African Peacemaking, by Robin-Edward Poulton and Ibrahim ag Youssouf (eds), 1998, 385 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.98.0.3.

Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project – Managing Arms in Peace Processes: Training, by Ilkka Tiihonen, Virginia Gamba, Jakkie Potgieter, Barbara Carrai, Claudia Querner and Steve Tulliu, 1998, 170 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.98.0.6 (forthcoming).

Curbing Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Sensitive Technologies: An Action-Oriented Agenda, by Péricles Gasparini Alves and Daiana Cipollone (eds), 1998, 286 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.E.98.0.8. *Also available in Spanish: *Represión del Tráfico ilícito de armas pequeñas y tecnologías sensibles: Una agenda orientada hacia la acción*, por Péricles Gasparini Alves y Daiana Cipollone (eds), 1998, 288 p., United Nations publication, Sales No. GV.S.98.0.8.

Sensor Monitoring for Peace Operations: Operational Applications, System Concepts and Legal Requirements, by Jürgen Altmann, Horst Fischer, Henny J. van der Graaf (eds), 1998, United Nations publication (forthcoming).

UNIDIR Briefs/Note de L'UNIDIR

A Peace of Timbuktu/La Paix de Timbouctou, Robin Edward Poulton and Ibrahim ag Youssouf, UNIDIR Brief No. 1/1998, Note de L'UNIDIR No. 1/1998.

Curbing Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Sensitive Technologies: An Action-Oriented Agenda/Represión del tráfico ilícito de armas pequeñas y technologías sensibles: Una agenda Orientada hacia la acción, Péricles Gasparini Alves and Daiana Cipollone, UNIDIR Brief No. 2/1998, Nota del UNIDIR No. 2/1998.

UNIDIR NewsLetter/Lettre de l'UNIDIR (quarterly/trimestrielle)

No. 34/96	*The transfer of Sensitive Technologies and the Future of Control Régimes*, 119 p.
	Le transfer de technologies sensibles et l'avenir des régimes de contrôle, 119 p.
No. 35/36	*The Korean Peninsula: Today and Tomorrow*, 148 p.
	La péninsule coréenne: aujourd'hui et demain, 148 p.
No. 37	*The Enhanced Review Process: Towards 2000*, 115 p.
	Le processus d'examen reinforcé: l'horizon 2000, 115 p.
Special Issue 3/97	*The Elimination of landmines*, 87 p.
Numéro spécial 3/97	*L'élimination des mines terrestres*, 87 p.

Annex II

Report of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research containing the proposed programme of work for 1998–1999

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Review of the report of the Director on the activities of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research	1–7	11
II.	Management and staffing	8	11
III.	Subvention from the United Nations regular budget	9–10	11
IV.	Planned activities	11–20	12
	A. Collective security	12	12
	B. Regional security	13	12
	C. Non-proliferation studies	14	12
	D. Fourth special session on disarmament	15	13
	E. Cooperation with and among research institutes	16–17	13
	F. United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research Fellowship Programme	18	13
	G. Publications	19–20	13
V.	Finance	21–22	13

Tables

1.	Current status of 1998 estimated income from voluntary sources	14
2.	Current status of 1999 estimated income from voluntary sources	14
3.	Estimated income and expenditure for 1998 and 1999	15
4.	Estimated resource requirements for 1998 and 1999	16

I. Review of the report of the Director on the activities of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

1. Pursuant to the provisions of article IV, paragraph 2 (I), of the statute of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR),[a] the Director of the Institute, Ms. Patricia Lewis, reported to the Board of Trustees on 30 June 1998 on the activities of the Institute for the period from July 1997 to June 1998 (see annex I). The report was an extension of a preliminary report on the activities of the Institute from July 1997 to March 1998, which the Director had presented to the Board of Trustees at its thirtieth session in March 1998 in Geneva.

2. At the Geneva meeting, the Board welcomed the Director, who had assumed her duties on 13 October 1997. It commended her for the firm start she made in recharting the management, financing and programme activities of the Institute and expressed its appreciation to the Deputy Director for his stewardship of the Institute before the appointment of the Director. The Board noted with appreciation the preliminary report of the Director. It encouraged her to explore the possibility of seeking a cost-of-living index attached to the United Nations subvention to the budget of the Institute. Various members of the Board made suggestions on the orientation of the Institute's programme, of which the Director took note.

3. At the thirty-first session of the Board during June and July 1998, members expressed satisfaction that the programme of work for 1997–1998 had been implemented in an exemplary fashion, especially considering the demands placed on the Institute during the period of transition. The Board expressed its appreciation to the Director, Deputy Director and the staff of the Institute for the successful implementation of the previous year's programme.

4. The Board unanimously commended the Director for her fund-raising activities, which markedly increased the financial resources available to the Institute.

5. The Board approved the Director's report for submission to the General Assembly.

6. The Board reviewed the proposed programme of work for 1998–1999 put forward by the Director. It made several suggestions on current and future projects, which the Director indicated she would take into account as far as financial and human resources allowed.

7. The Board approved the proposed programme of work for submission to the General Assembly (see sect. IV below).

II. Management and staffing

8. The work of UNIDIR is carried out with a dedicated but small staff: a director, a deputy director, a head of political affairs and administrative assistant, a specialized secretary for publications, researchers and editors. Currently the staff is small, but growing, the majority of staff being employed on short-term contracts. The Board continued to strongly support the view of the Director that a stronger core staff was needed to reinforce the Institute's internal research as well as its capacity to sustain work carried out elsewhere. It welcomed the fact that all attempts were being made to increase UNIDIR's core and project income, so that staff can be put on longer-term contracts and be more adequately remunerated.

III. Subvention from the United Nations regular budget

9. While efforts are continuing to increase the portion of administrative costs in tied contributions, non-earmarked money remains scarce. A subvention is therefore also necessary for the coming biennium. Such a subvention, which is used to cover the costs of the regular staff, including the Director, is important, not only economically, but also to ensure the independence of the Institute. It is important to note that for several years the subvention has not been adjusted for inflation while the salaries have been adjusted. In 1996 and 1997, the subvention was temporarily reduced from $220,000 to $213,000. The latter sum has also been repeated for the biennium 1998–1999. It is hoped that it will be possible to increase the subvention in line with inflation so that its value does not continue to decrease.

10. In view of the importance of the United Nations subvention, the Board agreed that the matter should be kept under review as part of the effort to facilitate growth in voluntary income. Attempts to ensure that it returns to its previous level and is adjusted for inflation should be undertaken. The Board requested that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and Fifth Committee give this suggestion serious consideration.

IV. Planned activities

11. The Institute's research programme, as approved and extended by previous meetings of the Board, comprises four main headings:

(a) Collective security in the framework of the United Nations;

(b) Regional security;

(c) Non-proliferation;

(d) Fourth special session on disarmament of the General Assembly.

A. Collective security

12. In the area of collective security, the following projects are planned for continuation or initiation in the coming year:

(a) A second, French, updated edition of the UNIDIR book on the United Nations peace-building experience in Mali (*La Paix de Timbouctou*);

(b) Regional discussion of the Mali experience and capacity-building in West Africa;

(c) A publication, *Arms management and conflict transformation in Mali*, by the Conflict Transformation Working Group of the University of Helsinki;

(d) A project on African capacities to undertake peacekeeping and peace enforcement operations, in collaboration with the Institute for Security Studies, South Africa;

(e) Discussion with other institutes on modern technologies and the needs of confidence-building, preventive diplomacy and peace operations;

(f) Participation in the work of the Study Group on Ammunition and Explosives;

(g) Illegal trafficking of small arms;

(h) A study on the manufacturing and manufacturers of small arms.

B. Regional security

13. In the area of regional security, the following projects are planned for continuation or initiation in the coming year:

(a) In recent years, regional security studies at UNIDIR have focused on the Middle East, West Africa and Latin America and, to a lesser extent thus far, in Asia. A diversification of regional security studies will be pursued in 1998, with a special emphasis on Asia;

(b) A workshop and publication on the potential uses of commercial satellite imagery for promoting peace and development in the Middle East in collaboration with the Cooperative Monitoring Center (United States of America);

(c) Development of a project to produce a satellite atlas of the Middle East;

(d) Peace-building, disarmament and small arms control in West Africa and the training of a new generation of African experts on security and disarmament matters;

(e) Development of a project on regional security in Asia;

(f) A study on the problem of small arms and the effect on societies in Latin America. This research is being undertaken by a visiting expert on the UNIDIR research fellowship programme.

C. Non-proliferation studies

14. The following projects in the field of non-proliferation studies are planned for continuation or initiation in the coming year:

(a) Development of a project to begin a series of seminars with international treaty-implementing organizations in order to highlight common interests and problems, encourage ratification and implementation, and promote dialogue between practitioners;

(b) A conference on biological warfare and two publications on the issues surrounding biological weapons;

(c) A series of UNIDIR informal discussion meetings in 1998 and 1999, focusing on the problems within the Conference on Disarmament;

(d) Two short studies on the possible limitations on the production of fissile materials. The first on the amounts and possession of the stocks of fissile material now present in the world and the second on disarmament and non-proliferation aspects of the proposals for banning the production of fissile materials for weapons purposes;

(e) A handbook on arms control and disarmament terms. The book is to be published in English and in Arabic, in order to further assist the peace process in the Middle East;

(f) Development of a project on the proposed Central Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone;

(g) The development of a project on nuclear arms reductions, with the initial focus on tactical and short-range nuclear weapons;

(h) Development of a project to assess the achievements of the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq;

(I) A study on the transfer of dual-use space technologies;

(j) A study assessing the costs and benefits of implementing arms reduction and disarmament agreements including the dismantlement of weapons;

(k) The development of projects on the role of non-governmental organizations and journalists in implementing the Ottawa Convention on landmines and on the training of deminers.

D. Fourth special session on disarmament

15. As part of its contribution to the preparation of a fourth special session on disarmament, the Institute will hold meetings and electronic conferences on the disarmament and security agenda. UNIDIR has set up an electronic conference site, which can be accessed through its web site, designed specifically to draw opinion and debate from a wide section of the international community on the current key questions in disarmament and security.

E. Cooperation with and among research institutes

16. Four recurrent activities will be continued under this heading:

(a) Maintenance and development of UNIDIR's computerized information and documentation system, DATARIS, on who is doing what in the field of security and disarmament research. The database, with over 1,200 references, is currently being overhauled and is scheduled to be on-line by September 1998;

(b) Publication of the quarterly UNIDIR *NewsLetter* (to be renamed *Disarmament Forum*);

(c) Convening of regional conferences, held with the dual purpose of examining region-specific issues of security, arms control and disarmament and of fostering cooperation with and among research institutes in the areas concerned;

(d) Convening of conferences and other smaller group activities in support of initiatives aimed at improving communication and access to data.

17. The Geneva Forum, a collaboration with the Quakers United Nations Office and the Geneva Graduate Institute of International Studies, will invite a number of speakers to Geneva in 1998 and 1999 to address controlling the spread of small arms.

F. United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research Fellowship Programme

18. The Institute is developing the visiting fellowship programme to increase the numbers of scholars and the time they spend at the Institute to allow them to focus on aspects of regional security.

G. Publications

19. The Institute will continue to publish a quarterly *NewsLetter*, research reports and research papers whilst making some changes to the way in which the publications are presented and distributed. The *NewsLetter* is to be renamed *Disarmament Forum* and distributed more widely so that UNIDIR's work will reach a broader audience.

20. Along with each research report and paper, short summary papers, called *UNIDIR Briefs*, are produced and distributed worldwide.

V. Finance

21. To date, voluntary contributions in 1998 amount to about US$ 1,167,200 (see table 1).

22. Tables 1 to 4 show the financial status of UNIDIR, as follows:

(a) Table 1, current status of 1998 estimated income from voluntary sources;

(b) Table 2, current status of 1999 estimated income from voluntary sources;

(c) Table 3, estimates of income and expenditure for 1998 and 1999;

(d) Table 4, estimated resource requirements for 1998 and 1999.

Notes

[a] General Assembly resolution 39/148 H, annex, of 17 December 1984.

Table 1

Current status of 1998 estimated income from voluntary sources

	US$
A. Contributions received in 1997 but earmarked for 1998	
Israel	4 900
Subtotal A	**4 900**
B. Contributions received in 1998 or pledged for 1998	
Brazil (received)	45 000
Finland (pledged)	28 100
France (received - last installment of the 1997 contribution)	140 000
France (pledged)	280 000
Greece (received)	7 600
The Netherlands (pledged)	10 100
Norway (received)	75 000
Switzerland (received)	46 600
United Kingdom (received)	332 900
United Kingdom (pledged)	33 300
Cooperative Monitoring Centre (United States of America)	142 900
Dortmund University, Germany (received)	3 000
European Union (received)	11 200
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (received)	6 600
Subtotal B	**1 162 300**
Total estimated income from voluntary sources for 1998 to date	**1 167 200**

Table 2

Current status of 1999 estimated income from voluntary sources

	US$
France	280 000
Greece	7 600
Total estimated income from voluntary sources for 1999 to date	**287 600**

Table 3

Estimated income and expenditure for 1998 and 1999

(In thousands of US$)

Items		*1998 estimates*	*1999 estimates*	*Increase or (decrease)*
A.	Funds available at the beginning of the year	285.9	520.2[3]	234.3
B.	Income:			
	– Voluntary contributions and public donations	1 162.3[1]	287.6[4]	(874.7)
	– Subvention from the United Nations regular budget	213.0[2]	213.0[2]	—
	– Interest income	30.0	10.0	(20.0)
	Total income	**1 405.3**	**510.6**	**(894.7)**
C.	**Total funds available (A + B)**	**1 691.2**	**1 030.8**	**(660.4)**
D.	Expenditure	1 171.0	834.4	(336.6)
E.	**Fund balance at the end of the year (C - D)**	**520.2**	**196.4[5]**	**(323.8)**

[1] See annex III for details of UNIDIR 1998 estimated income from voluntary sources.

[2] The amount of the regular budget subvention to UNIDIR was fixed at $426,000 for the biennium 1998-1999.

[3] Includes $143,700 required as operating cash reserve for 1998.

[4] See annex IV for details of UNIDIR 1999 estimated income from voluntary sources.

[5] Includes $93,100 required as operating cash reserve for 1999.

Table 4

Estimated resource requirements for 1998 and 1999

(In thousands of US$)

Resource requirements	*1998 estimates*	*1999 estimates*	*Increase or (decrease)*
A. Direct programme and administrative costs			
– Interpretation	6.4	—[1]	(6.4)
– Translation and revision	8.7	—[1]	(8.7)
– Consultants' fees and travel	25.0[1]	—[1]	(25.0)
– Ad hoc expert groups	65.6[1]	—[1]	(65.6)
– Salaries and related staff costs	513.1[2]	439.4	(73.7)
– Personal service contract	354.4[1]	294.8[1]	(59.6)
– Language training	2.4	2.4	—
– Other specialized training	5.0	—	(5.0)
– Fellowship programme (stipend)	25.3	—[1]	(25.3)
– Official travel of staff	50.0	30.0[1]	(20.0)
– Conference room rent	2.5	—[1]	(2.5)
– Rental of conference service equipment	2.0	—[1]	(2.0)
– External printing and binding	6.5	5.0	(1.5)
– Hospitality	1.0	—	(1.0)
– Maintenance of office automation equipment	9.0	7.0	(2.0)
– Paper for internal reproduction	15.0	15.0	—
– Library books	2.0	—	(2.0)
– Subscriptions and standing orders	2.0	1.2	(0.8)
– Data-processing supplies	5.0	5.0	—
– Acquisition of office equipment	24.5	5.0	(19.5)
Total	**1 125.4**	**804.8**	**(320.6)**
B. Programme support costs (5% of total A, less United Nations subvention)	45.6	29.5	(16.1)
Total estimated expenditure (A + B)	**1 171.0**	**834.3**	**(336.7)**
C. Operating cash reserve (15% of total A and B less United Nations subvention)	143.7	93.1	(50.6)
Grand total A + B + C	**1 314.7**	**927.4**	**(387.3)**

[1] These figures may be increased upon the confirmation of current funding proposals.

[2] Includes the salary and common staff costs for the Director for 1997 (2.5 months).